October 8 – 14, 2020 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 41 www.associatednewspapers.net

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 135, No. 41

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees accepted and approved a financial audit prepared by auditors from Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel.

See page 5.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 41

Kopper park, the newest neighborhood park in Canton Township will officially open with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony next week.

See page 4.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 73, No. 41

A 22-year-old man has pleaded guilty to threatening an Inkster woman with physical harm to obstruct her free exercise of religion.

See page 5.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 41

Robert Nix, who was defeated in his bid for reelection as Northville Township Supervisor by 39 votes in August, will be a write-in candidate on the Nov. 3 ballot.

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THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 20, No. 41

League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County President Paula Bowman of Plymouth helped deliver the league informational voter guides last week.

See page 3.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 135, No. 41

The City of Romulus has received more than $800,000 in federal and state grant funding during the past 6 months.

See page 5.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 41

A large crowd gathered last Wednesday to celebrate the official dedication of the new veterans' memorial located adjacent to Wayne City Hall.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 73, No. 41

Phineas Cody has been named as the Westland deputy director of the Department of Innovation and Technology. He began his new position Sept. 15.

See page 2.

Kroger to build $95 million facility in Romulus

Romulus Mayor LeRoy Burcroff is hoping the latest announcement of a $95 million Kroger customer fulfillment center in the city adds to the city reputation as a state delivery site hub.

Kroger announced last week that the new center would be located on a 22-acre site at 15675 Wahrman Road, part of the Detroit Region Aerotropolis Development Corp. which includes four communities around Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run Airports, Taylor, Romulus, Van Buren Township and Huron Township.

The new facility is expected to be a 135,000 square-foot, high-tech center designed to help meet the growing online shopping customer base, company managers said, and create 250 jobs. It is one of three Kroger has planned across the country, according to a prepared news release from the food retailer.

> *We are thrilled about the many new jobs the operations will provide to local residents.*

"We are delighted to welcome the Kroger fulfillment center to Romulus, building on the city's status as a logistics and fulfillment hub," Burcroff said. "We are thrilled about the many new jobs the operations will provide to local residents. Even amid COVID-19, we have remained focused on ensuring Romulus continues to be a home of opportunity–for businesses and residents alike–and with the support of strong partners like Kroger, we can keep our community vibrant for years to come. At the same time, the innovative use of robotics at the fulfillment center to prepare grocery orders for delivery to customers nearby will offer residents critical access to healthy and fresh food."

The Romulus facility will be automated with digital and robotic capabilities and will handle orders from Michigan, northern Ohio and Indiana. The center will be build with Kroger partner Ocado Solutions, which will provide the infrastructure for the automated warehouse operations.

Ongoing research and surveys from Brick Meets Click/Mercatus Grocery Shopping Survey showed online grocery shopping for pickup or delivery sales was $5.7 billion in August. While the latest numbers are down from a peak of $7.2 billion in June, research showed it is five times larger than a year ago. But the research also found the average amount spent on orders was $95 - a record high.

"We continue to invest in and constantly improve our e-commerce capabilities, focusing on cost-effective solutions," said Robert Clark, Kroger senior vice president of supply chain, manufacturing and sourcing, in a news release. "In Michigan, we are engineering a smaller model for the region, leveraging advanced robotics technology and creative solutions to redefine the customer experience and respond to the growing demand for grocery e-commerce services."Luke Jensen, CEO of Ocado Solutions, said the partnership will provide a "game-changing ecosystem for serving online grocery across the United States."

Special deliveries

Clerks mail record number of absentee ballots to area voters

Blue and white envelopes containing absentee ballots began arriving in mailboxes throughout the area last week and local municipal clerks are bracing for a huge response from voters. The monumental increase in requests for absentee or mail-in ballots may indicate an unprecedented turn out at the polls Nov. 3, they agree.

In Canton Township, Clerk Michael A. Siegrist and his staff have mailed 32,703 absentee ballots. That is more than double the 14,220 requested for the 2016 Presidential Election, he noted.

Siegrist said he is anticipating a 79 percent turnout of the 72,000 registered voters in Canton for the November election.

"That would be just over 56,000 residents voting. That means that almost 60 percent of voters will be using an absentee ballot," he said.

The City of Inkster has mailed 5,099 ballots to date according to Yolanda Holmes, assistant city clerk in Inkster while Inkster City Clerk Felicia Rutledge recently notified all voters that with the short turnaround time and the high volume of absentee ballot requests, her office staff is "diligently in the process of issuing absentee ballots by mail and working extraordinarily hard to get ballots issued." She said that absentee ballots would also be available for counter issuance at her office in city hall by last Monday.

Nearly 12,500 Northville Township General Election absentee ballots were mailed to requestors on Sept. 23 explained Township Clerk Marjorie Banner, the largest absentee ballot mailing in the history of the township. Banner reminded absentee voters to sign the envelope when returning the ballot and because of previously reported mail issues regarding ballots, voters may prefer to return them using the drop box near township hall at any time of the day, or the drive-through window at township hall between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Those wishing to personally hand their ballots to the clerk's office on the second floor of township hall will need to wear a mask and observe all safety protocols, she cautioned.

City of Plymouth voters who requested absentee ballots for the Nov. 3 General Election should have already seen them in their mailboxes, according City Clerk Maureen Brodie. Her office delivered absentee ballots to the post office last week for more than 3,700 absentee ballot applications which were received by Sept. 24.

Nearly 12,500 Northville Township General Election absentee ballots were mailed last Wednesday, Sept. 23 - two days early - by Township Clerk Marjorie Banner (left), Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson and their staff members. This is the largest absentee ballot mailing in the history of the township, officials said. Banner reminded absentee voters to sign the envelope when returning the ballot and because of previously reported mail issues regarding ballots, voters may prefer to return them using the Drop Box at any time of the day, use the drive-thru window at township hall between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., or wear a mask and use the box in the lobby or the second floor clerk's office inside township hall.

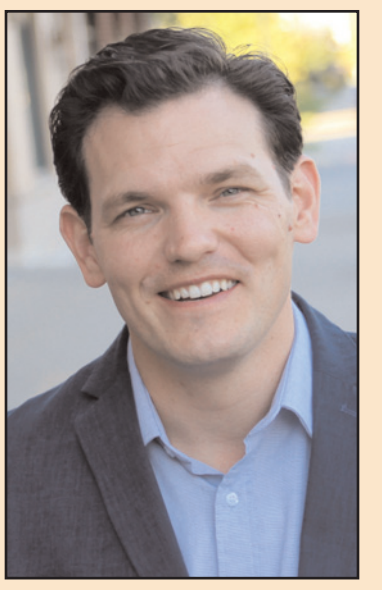
> *That would be just over 56,000 voters voting. That means that almost 60 percent of voters will be voting an absentee ballot.*

Ballots can be completed and returned by mail or hand-delivered to one of the three drop boxes available in the city, she said. Two are located inside Plymouth City Hall and one of those is available 24 hours. A third drop box at the drive-up area at the Plymouth District Library, is also available 24 hours, Brodie said.

"Remember to sign your ballot return envelope and seal it with your ballot inside in its secrecy sleeve," she cautioned.

In Plymouth Township, Clerk Jerry Vorva said his office has mailed more than 12,000 absentee ballots as of last Friday. He said he expects that more will be mailed and that 14,000 to 15,000 absentee ballots will be requested in the township. He said that in 2016, the township issued only 6,500 absentee ballots and there were only 17,500 total votes cast, so the absentee ballots this election could total the entire vote count of 2016.

"I'm expecting 18 to 19,000 total voters," he said.



Canton Township Clerk Michael Siegrist

Romulus City Clerk Ellen Craig-Bragg has been urging voters to return the absentee ballots at their convenience using the one of the two drop box locations available. She said there is one in the city hall parking lot and another in the city senior center parking lot.

"There are also two drop

See **Ballot,** page 6

Wayne - Westland

In memoriam

Wayne dedicates tribute to veterans of armed services

A large crowd gathered last Wednesday to celebrate the official dedication of the new veterans' memorial located adjacent to Wayne City Hall.

The memorial, a volunteer project funded by citizen donations, members of UAW Local 900 and a matching grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corp., began as a grassroots effort in 2016 when veterans in the community suggested the project.

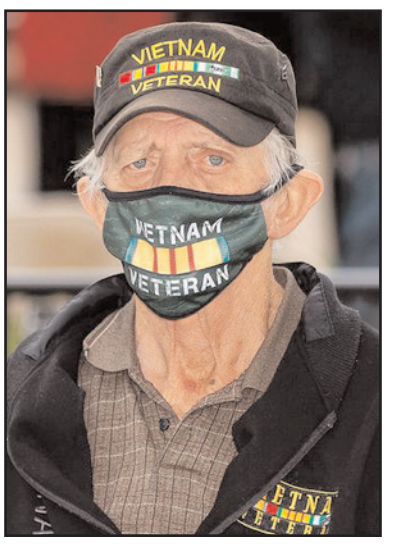
Members of the UAW Local 845 were moving the union headquarters and suggested moving the monument from the former site to Wayne. That memorial, which honors all armed service members, was incorporated into the completely new tribute dedicated last week.

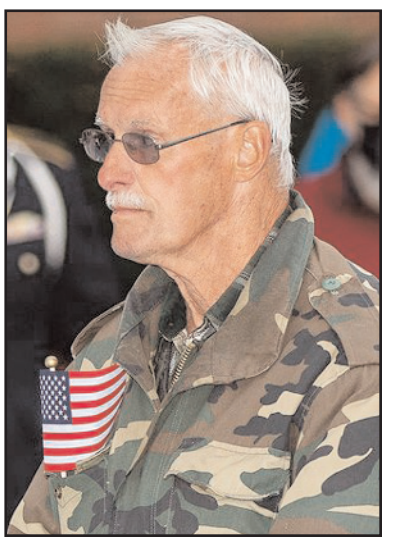
A funding drive for donations collected more than $35,000 for the installation which includes a new flag pole and American flag along with necessary footings, the excavation and pavement installation, lighting, the striping of newly-designated handicapped accessible veterans only parking spaces near the monument, benches, landscaping and signage.

Donations will also fund 5 years of maintenance at the site, officials said.

During the dedication ceremony last week, the Wayne Memorial High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) under the direction of First Sgt. Albert Phoenix presented the colors for the official flag raising while members of the Wayne Memorial High School Zebra marching Band under the direction of Michael Wolf played the Star Spangled Banner, TAPS and a medley of patriotic music. Wayne Police Chief Ryan Strong, Wayne/Westland Fire Chief Michael Stradtner and Wayne Deputy Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Jeremie Schneider led the assembled crowd in the pledge of allegiance and Wayne police officers Jordan Arndt and Joshua Priebe and Wayne Fire Department Capt. Dave Wylie officiated at the raising of the American and POW/MIA flag. All three men are veterans. Other speakers included committee members Mayor John Rhaesa, City Manager Lisa Nocerini, Department of Public Works Assistant Director Ed Queen, Buildings and Engineering Department/ Building Official Michael Buiten and Lori Gouin, Community Development/DDA director.

The keynote address was presented by Col. Charles L. Cone, United States Air Force, retired





and Chris Miller, a member of UAW Local 900 spoke. Both the invocation and closing prayer were led by Pastor Seth McDonald of Hill Crest Bible Church.

The effort was led by members of the Wayne Veteran's Memorial Committee including Rhaesa; Mayor Pro Tem Thomas Porter; Mike Smith, UAW Local 900; Chris Miller, UAW Local 900 member; Alison Hug, UAW Local 845; Nocerini; Gouin; Buiten, Queen; Wayne Department of Public Works Assistant Director Kathryn Sample and Wayne Finance Director and Lloyd Allen, an honorary member and UAW Local 900 retiree.

The audience was filled with Wayne veterans and their families. The memorial is now open to the public.

Westland names new technology deputy director

Phineas Cody

Phineas Cody began his new job as Ciy of Westland Deputy Director of the Department of Innovation and Technology on Sept. 15.

Cody started his career with the CIty of Detroit as a Helpdesk Technician. After serving Detroit for 22 years, he moved on to serve for nearly 2 years in the City of Westland and then the City of Inkster for 2 years in areas of Information Technology (IT) business operations and IT project management. Cody has a bachelors of science degree and a masters degree in Business Administration in Information Technology and Project Management from Colorado Technical University. Cody also earned various IT certifications that include Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) Foundation Service Strategy, CompTIA Network+, and Microsoft Certified Professional and is a member of the Project Management Institution.

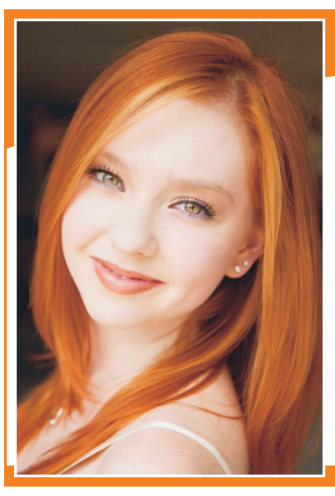
> *I am honored and excited to once again join the DoIT Team in the City of Westland.*

"I am honored and excited to once again join the DoIT Team in the City of Westland," Cody said.

"Mayor Wild's administrative team is comprised of very talented individuals who believe that innovation can drive customer service and I look forward to helping to further the city's technological advancements."

Resumes, applications, and writing samples were collected via job postings and interviews were conducted by a panel including a representative of the city Human Resource Department, the director of Innovation and Technology and an independent interviewer.

"I am very excited about the addition of Phineas Cody to our department. When he worked with us previously, he showed a tremendous amount of ability in this field and being able to return him to the fold in an expanded role will allow us the opportunity to fully utilize his skills and personality to continue providing the best service we can to the residents of Westland," remarked Mayor William R. Wild.



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32. Help Wanted Drivers

NOW HIRING Penske Logistics expects to hire full-time warehouse workers to support our essential food warehouse operations in Romulus, MI. Warehouse positions include order selectors for the 2nd shift. $16.55-$22.55 per hour with performance/ safety bonus opportunity. Interviews are being conducted via phone and following social distancing protocols. 1 year experience warehousing or material-handling preferred. Apply Today! 855-759-7098

59. Auctions

On Wednesday, October 21,2020 at 11:30 AM, Frazier's Auto Service Towing located at 35830 Van Born Rd Wayne, MI 48184 will conduct a public auction of Impounded and Abandoned Vehicles. The following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder.

05 FORD TAURUS
1FAFP53U25A210740
01 JEEP CHEROKEE
1J4GW48591C586976
05 CHYSYLER 300
2C3JA53G55H507877
03 CHEVY IMPALA
2G1WF52E039129759
99 DODGE DAKOTA
1B7GG26X4XS308670
96 FORD F150
1FTEF15N6TLA22280
03 HONDA ACCORD
1HGCM566573A087521
04 MERCURY SABLE
1MEFM55S74G605165
08 MERCURY SABLE
1MEHM42W68G622376
12 CHRYSLER 200
1C3CCBBC1CN121760
97 CHEVY BLAZER
1GNDT13W1V2100688
99 DODGE RAM1500
3B7HC13YXVG814418
16 FORD FUSION
3FA6P0HD8GR313844
12 CHRYSLER T&C
2C4RC1BG5CR369302
08 CHRYSLER SEBRING
1C3LC56R38N215950
MERCURY MOUNTAINEER
4M2ZU55P5WUJ19432
05 FORD TAURUS
1FAFP5322SA236351
12 DODGE JOURNEY
3C4PDCAB6CT34959
05 CHEVY 2500
1GCGG25V551199946
04 MERCURY SABLE
1MEFM55S44A625053
95 CHEYENNE1500
1GCEC14Z75Z132103
03 JAGUAR XTYPE
SAJEA51D63XD29450
07 SAAB 97X
5S3ET13M572800710
02 HONDA CRV
JHLRD78882C007233
12 CHEVY EQUINOX
2GNALBEK1C1311776
10 CHRYSLER SEBRING
1C3CCSFV4AN131963
07 DODGE CHARGER
2B3KA43G17H748690
08 FORD TAURUS
1FMD503W48GA08015

The above vehicles are impounded through the cities of Romulus, Wayne, Westland, Canton, Inkster, Van Buren, and Garden City. All paperwork is to picked up from the city within 48 hours of the sale.

All vehicle are sold in "as is condition". Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction. This is a cash only sale and all vehicles must be paid in full at the time of the conclusion of the auction.

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INVITATION TO BID

ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received, opened, and read aloud by Romulus CommunitySchools at the District Administration Building located at 36540 Grant Rd., Romulus, MI 48174 no later than 2:00 PM local time on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 for the following work:

Romulus Early Childhood Center Exterior Signage – 35200 Smith Rd, Romulus, MI 48174.

All bids shall be submitted online at:
https://app.buildingconnected.com/public/55a1292ff1a96708004a19dc

Please contact jared.marinelli@bartonmalow.com with any questions.

The School Board will not accept any bid submitted after the indicated due time and date. Bidders will be required to submit with their Bid Proposals a Bid Security by a qualified surety authorized to do business in the state where the Projects is located. All Bid Proposals shall be accompanied by the following two forms: Familial Disclosure Form (in accordance with MCL 380.1267) and an Iran Economic Sanctions Act Form (in compliance with Michigan Public Act No. 517 of 2012). Bid Proposals that do not include these two sworn and notarized forms shall not be accepted.

AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION

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PLYMOUTH

Guiding hand

League of Women Voters Election Guides delivered to local libraries

Julie Brown
Special Writer

Gathering as volunteers isn't new for the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Northwest Wayne County, but last Friday was especially busy. Members gathered in a garage of one volunteer to assemble Voter Guides.

"It's been a lot of work but it's satisfying to know people use them. There's no spin on them," noted Paula Bowman, a Plymouth Township resident and LWV of Northwest Wayne County president.

She and other League volunteers delivered print Voter Guides through Monday to area libraries for distribution.

"Seniors especially really rely on these," noted Bowman of the print guides, which include both state and local races and issues. "We did print more than we usually do. We expect them to go fast."

The League's Vote 411.org site offers Nov. 3 election information, supplementing the print Voter Guide.

"I wish everybody would appreciate how local elections impact their lives. Those are the people that can impact our lives. The township officials are the ones that determine when your garbage gets picked up," Bowman said.

The LWV of Northwest Wayne County hosts candidate forums, too, and is using Zoom now due to the pandemic. "We have had plenty of work to do remotely and in print," said Bowman, retired for about a year from office administration work.

"When people are making sound decisions about who represents them we all benefit. That is a benefit to all of us," said Bowman, also a vice president of the state League of Women Voters. She's been volunteering about 25 years thanks to her mom, now 93.

Paula Bowman displays the voter guides of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Wayne County now available in local libraries.

Volunteers including, clockwise starting bottom left, Lois Baughman, Pat Bindas, Ting Westra and Judy Westra, work on packaging the League of Women Voters guides for distribution.

"She got me involved all those many years ago," said Bowman, adding that retiring "has given me more time to volunteer." She said she is proud of the work to educate voters since the founding of the League in 1920, the same year as national women's suffrage in the U.S.

Also proud is Carrie Moon-Dupree of Canton Township, the LWV Northwest Wayne County vice president of Voter Service who said she is confident the League is "providing accurate, unbiased information." She's a three-year member and retired from Presbyterian Villages of Michigan as an administrator.

Bowman notes Canton has three school districts, meaning its Voter Guide' is larger than some others.

"We cover all the school districts," said Bowman of Wayne-Westland, Plymouth-Canton, Northville, Van Buren, Garden City, Redford Union, and South Redford, "because people need that information more than, say, about the President" of the U.S.

She notes during League candidate forums many parents asked about in-person classroom learning. "We devote a lot of time and effort to those races," said Bowman of boards of education, agreeing they handle large budgets.

The Michigan Supreme Court is a contested race Nov. 3. "That race is definitely included in our guide," said Bowman, adding less space is allocated for non-contested races for judge.

The League of Women Voters has a limited budget which determines some decisions on Voter Guide space, she said. The 34th District Court, which covers Romulus and serves Belleville, also has a contested race, as does the Wayne County Circuit Court.

The Michigan Supreme Court candidate information includes who those candidates were nominated by, she said.

Cities this Nov. 3 have fewer races than townships do, and Bowman appreciates that candidates are willing to serve. "Yet there are still people wanting to be involved," she noted of school boards.

The 2018 measure to allow no-reason absentee voting, along with online voter registration, has "compressed time" for the League and for municipal clerks, she added.

That's true too for endorsements, such as by labor unions and others. Some voters have relied on endorsements, said Bowman, whose organization doesn't endorse candidates.

"Here people who rely on those endorsements are looking for them," she added. She notes information from candidates will be ongoing, and that organization candidate forums can be viewed online.

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Canton

Canton educator is honored by state lottery

A Plymouth-Canton Community School District educator known for bringing hot healthy meals to students every day has been honored with an Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery.

Award winner Colleen Berry is the nutrition services supervisor for Canton High School. She received a plaque, a $1,500 cash prize, and a $500 grant for her school. One of the weekly winners will be selected as the Educator of the Year and will receive a $10,000 cash prize.

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

Each winner also is featured in a news segment on the Lottery media partner stations. Berry was featured on WXYZ-TV in Detroit. During her interview, Berry said that helping children prepare to learn by filing their bellies led her to a career as in food service for the school district.

"Some of these children only eat at school, so making sure they have nutritious meals to help prepare them for learning is important. A well-fed student is ready to learn."

She said her favorite part of being an educator is "feeding hungry children and seeing the smiles on the students faces when they come to get their breakfast and lunch."

Berry said building relationships with the students and making an impact on their lives in the brief time she has with them each day motivates her to do her best each day.

"Students can't learn if they are hungry, so each day our staff does our best to prepare nutritious meals for each student and to serve each meal with a smile."

A colleague nominated her for the Excellence in Education award. The nomination cited her leadership and dedication to feeding students, and her ability to adapt to the challenges the school faced at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, Colleen had to change gears and turn into a new community service to provide food to these families difficult times," the nomination said. "Having meals with fruit, vegetables, and milk available helped countless families during the school weeks while children had no school.

Canton High School Nutrition Services Supervisor Colleen Berry recently accepted an Excellence in Education award from the Michigan Lottery and was featured on WXYZ TV in an interview.

"Colleen had a lot of help from the administration and cafeteria staff to pitch in and assist her efforts, but her service over the years is an inspiration to me and she always does it with a smile."

Berry attended Canton High School and has worked in the district food service department for 13 years, including three years as the cafeteria manager at Canton High School.

Outstanding public-school educators may be nominated for an Excellence in Education award at http://bit.ly/ExcellenceInEducation or through the websites of the Lottery media partner station.

Newest township park to be dedicated next week

The newest neighborhood park in Canton Township will officially open with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony next week.

Kopper Park, located on the north side of Koppernick Road, east of Haggerty Road, will be dedicated by Canton Township Supervisor Pat Williams and members of the board of trustees at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, weather permitting.

Kopper Park features traditional playground equipment in an unconventional space, officials noted. The new play area includes: swings, slides, a play structure with climbing apparatus, play panels, spinning wheel, shade sail, and a bouncing grasshopper, as well as benches that will enchance the area, officials said. Future additions will include the installation of synthetic turf to create rolling hills, which will be added later this year.

"Canton is excited to unveil our newest park that offers a lot of fun amenities arranged in a small but unique space," said Canton Leisure Services Director Greg Hohenberger. "This new site was added to the northeast part of Canton in an effort to provide park access in this section of our community. Plus, this new addition to our parks system is helping us get closer to fulfilling our goal of having a park within a 10-minute walking distance from every home in Canton by 2050."

Funded in part by a Community Development Block Grant, this half-acre plot of land was purchased from the West Gate Apartment Development to add to the Canton park system in an area of the community that has expanded and added many new families. This location was selected near the Holiday Park Subdivision, which is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the township, to address a need for a play structure in this area that has witnessed generations of families grow and develop through the years, officials noted.

Those present at the outdoor ceremony are encouraged to wear face masks and must allow for social distancing at the park.

Those visiting Kopper Park from Oct. 15 through Nov. 1, can enter for a chance to win 18 holes of golf for two at Pheasant Run Golf Club just by snapping a selfie next to any Kopper Park amenity and posting it on Facebook using the hashtag: #KopperParkFun.

Remember to tag Canton Leisure Services for a chance to snap, post, and win. This prize is valued at approximately $100. The winner will be notified by Wednesday, Nov. 4 on Facebook at CantonLeisureServices.

For more information about Kopper Park and other Canton park amenities, visit www.cantonfun.org or call (734) 394-5360.

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 10/08/20

CN2108 - 100820 2.5 x 4.72

COMBINED NOTICE
NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS (RROF)

OCTOBER 8, 2020

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

1150 CANTON CENTER S

CANTON, MI 48188

(734) 394-5225

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about October 20, 2020 the Charter Township of Canton will submit a request to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title One of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake the following projects: Project # 1 Kopper Park Playground for the purpose of creating a playground, $75,000, in the northeast corner of Canton Township near the crossroads of Haggerty Road and Koppernick Road.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Charter Township of Canton gives notice that it has been determined that the release of funds for the above projects will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of human environment and accordingly the Charter Township of Canton has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 USC 4321).
The reasons for this decision not to prepare such statement are as follows: No serious environmental adverse impacts or hazards were identified in the course of the environmental review.
An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at Finance Department, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton MI 48188 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M to 4 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Canton Finance Department, 1150 Canton Center S., Canton MI 48188. All comments received by October 19th will be considered by Canton Township prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The Charter Township of Canton certifies to HUD that Pat Williams in his capacity as Supervisor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Charter Township of Canton to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the Charter Township of Canton's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Charter Township of Canton; (b) the Charter Township of Canton has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at McNamara Federal Building at 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit MI 48226. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Pat Williams, Canton Township Supervisor

CN2109 - 100820 2.5 x 6.837

INKSTER - ROMULUS - SUMPTER

Woman threatened following church outreach efforts

An 22-year-old man has pleaded guilty to intentionally threatening an Inkster woman with physical harm to obstruct her free exercise of religion, which is a federal offense.

The incident began last July, according to official accounts of the case, when Teresa Patton received the threatening message from the Facebook page of an 83-year-old man. Patton is an attorney and her husband is in law enforcement. She said that she first interpreted the threatening message as a joke. A more careful examination showed that there were two "friends" associated with the Facebook page from where the message originated, one of those identified as Ronny Wyatt, 22. Patton told investigators that she knew Wyatt through her church outreach program and had taken him food as part of the Sunset Church of Christ in Taylor outreach services.

> *Federal officials said that Wyatt admitted he was acting intentionally to obstruct the woman's freedom of religion, because she is African-American.*

Wyatt alegedly admitted to FBI investigators that he had sent the message telling Berry that he would show up at the church "with my AK to put you and your [expletive] family down [expletive]."

Federal officials said that Wyatt admitted he was acting intentionally to obstruct the woman's freedom of religion, because she is African-American and that he intended her to read his message as a threat. FBI agents reported finding several weapons believed to belong to Wyatt at his mobile home.

The church did not shut down due to the threat although church officials did increase security including having Patton's husband walk the church aisles while armed in an effort to protect worshippers.

Wyatt's mother reportedly told police that her son was angry that church members attempted to counsel him about his drug use.

Romulus receives more than $800,000 in grant funds

The City of Romulus has received more than $800,000 in various federal and statewide grants, coming at a critical time as the city works to lessen the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, officials said.

In light of the increased need of funding due to the pandemic and the grant opportunities offered at the federal, state and county levels, Mayor LeRoy Burcroff recently created an Operational Sustainability & Community Enhancement Committee. The committee members, including city department leaders, work together to streamline the grant process by providing each department the resources and information they need to easily complete applications. The new committee has played a key role in Romulus' ability to coordinate and receive grants during the pandemic, Burcroff said.

"As city leaders, it is our duty to protect our city's financial standing while bettering the community we call home," said Burcroff. "I am proud of those on the Operational Sustainability & Community Enhancement Committee who continue to work diligently to create an efficient and successful grant process, securing access to resources, especially funding, that build on our city's existing infrastructure."

> *As city leaders, it is our duty to protect our city's financial standing while bettering the community we call home.*

To date, Romulus has received grants including: First Responder Hazard Pay Premiums Program grant to reimburse first responder hazard pay premiums for those who have performed hazardous work related to COVID-19 - $58,272; Public Safety and Public Health Payroll Reimbursement Program grant to reimburse public safety and public health expenditures related to COVID-19 - $685,759; Justice Assistance Grant to provide funding necessary to support a range of public safety and public health expenditures - $47,550; Building Healthy Places grant from MParks and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services; $10,000 for Boise Parkway walking path improvements; $1,500 for COVID-19 related items such has sanitizing stations and social distancing signs for parks; Center for Tech and Civic Life grant to assist with election expenses - $16,645 and a DTE Foundation and Relief Michigan grant to plant 15 trees around the community.

Sumpter Township auditor praises board's performance

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees accepted and approved an independent financial audit prepared by auditors from Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel.

The positive audit was presented to the board members during the Sept. 22 meeting and included the financial transactions and management of the fiscal year ending March 31.

The auditor referred to the findings as "a good report" and told the board members that they "do a good job watching the budget." She noted that overall, the budget in the township is stable.

The general fund balance of $9.2 million against total expenditures of $5.4 million indicate that the township financial health is sound with nearly two years of anticipated expenses already funded, she said.

"Those are real numbers," she told the board members.

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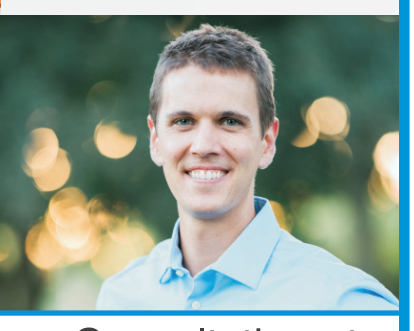
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Northville

Ballot

FROM PAGE 1

boxes inside of city hall," she added.

Craig-Bragg said her office had mailed 5,743 absentee ballots by last week.

"Voters who have requested an absentee ballot and have not received it by Oct. 19, should contact the clerk's office at (734) 942-7540. Voters who have not mailed in their AV ballots by Oct. 19 should use the drop boxes," Craig-Bragg advised.

Her office, like most other municipal clerks, will have special, extended week-end hours this month, leading up to the election.

In Sumpter Township, Deputy Clerk Anthony Burdick said that 2,088 absentee ballots had been sent to voters requesting them and in Van Buren Township, Clerk Leon Wright said that 9,251 absentee ballots had been requested and mailed to township voters by Oct. 1.

"This is a historical amount of absentee ballots for Van Buren Township and our office is very excited for the turnout already. We encourage anyone who is interested in voting absentee to visit www.mi.gov/vote or to come to the clerk's office to request an absentee ballot in person," Wright said.

Wayne City Clerk Tina Stanke said her office had mailed 3,925 ballots by last Thursday and that requests continue to come into her office daily, as do returned ballots. She said that about 375 of those ballots had already been returned in the city, waiting to be counted on Nov. 3.

"We have a brand new, stainless steel ballot box on the east side of city hall," she said. "I urge voters to use it. It is absolutely secure."

The ballot box, Stanke said, was funded by Wayne County and is a convenience voters can utilize 24 hours a day.

Westland had issued 22,083 absentee ballots by last Friday, according to City Clerk Richard LeBlanc, and 2,988 had also been returned by that date.

"With more than one month to go until Election Day, the more than 22,000 issued as of today compares to a total of 10,504 issued for the 2016 Presidential Election," he said.

Westland has 64,869 voters, LeBlanc said, and the Permanent Absentee Voters list stands at 21,687.

"We expect the total number of issued AVs to exceed 25,000 for the Nov. 3 election. Completed absentee ballots can be delivered to the U.S. Post Office, or Westland City Hall if you're a registered voter in Westland. We prefer that voters deliver their voted, signed ballot to city hall.

"The city has three drop box areas, one in the parking lot, on the face of the building at the main entrance, and in a mail slot at the clerk's portion of the counter inside city hall. Postage is not required if you use the city-only drop box or mail slot," LeBlanc reminded voters.

All returned ballots have a barcode on the envelope, not on the ballot, LeBlanc said, and voters are required to sign the envelope. That signature is compared electronically to the signature of the voter on file through the state voter database before it is placed in a secure bin to become tabulated on Election Day, he noted.

LeBlanc said he strongly encourages absentee balloting for the safety of both the voter and his staff.

"We are outfitting our precinct election officials with PPE, but I consider them to be as much of a frontline champion as many of those others who venture out to serve the public. For their safety and mine, I'm choosing to vote with a safe and secure absentee ballot out of respect for all other people. Our office encourages all voters to consider doing the same," he said.

Familiar names to appear as write-in candidates

Robert Nix, who was defeated in his bid for reelection as Northville Township Supervisor by only 39 votes in August, will be a write-in candidate for the job on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Nix will be joined as write-in candidates by defeated Township Clerk Marjorie Banner and Township Treasurer Fred Shadko. All have registered their write-in candidacy with the office of the Wayne County Clerk.

Nix was defeated in the Republican primary election by former Twnship Supervisor Mark Abbo who served in the job for more than a decade, from 2000 until 2012. Banner lost her bid to Roger Lundberg and Shadko was outvoted by Jason Rhines in the primary election.

Nix said the small number of votes separating him from Abbo was a factor in his decision to register as a write-in candidate.

> *Nix was defeated in the Republican primary election by former township supervisor Mark Abbo who served in the job for more than a decade.*

John Werth, a former director of public safety in the township who is currently serving as the transition manager for Abbo, recently requested an analysis of all township departments from current Township Manager Todd Mutchler. In a two-page, hand-delivered letter, Werth requested an anaylsis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, or SWOT, of all departments. He indicated that following the receipt of the information, interviews with township personnel would be scheduled with himself and transition team members Julie Garavaglia (economic development), Mike Cox (legal), Phil McGuire (public services), Werth (public safety), Steve McGuirk (parks and recreation), Kevin Kelley (senior services), Dale Yagalia (youth services), Alan Helmkamp (landfill) and Rhines and Lundberg.

Werth also requested copies of outstanding contracts with vendors and personnel information including wages, union contracts and any pending or ongoing litigation.

Those documents were not delivered or supplied and Abbo and his team subsequently made Freedom of Information Act requests for the documents, some of which were provided under the provisions of the law.

Abbo said the request for information was an effort toward a dignified and respectful transition in township leadership and an effort to save time.

Nix, however, said that Abbo's request for detailed and, in some cases, sensitive township information, was "simply inappropriate before the Nov. 3 general election." He said he would not release confidential contracts or employee information prior to the general election.

The winners in the Nov. 3 balloting will begin their new terms Nov. 20.

Upstaged

Local woman performs in college a cappella competition

Candidates for office aren't the only ones looking for voters' support this month.

Medha Sripada is also hoping that voters in her home town of Northville will cast a vote for her and her University of Michigan a cappella group Amazin' Blue which was recently selected to compete in UpStagedAid: One world, Every Student Voice, the largest international college a cappella championship in history and the first ever virtual college championship of the kind.

Sripada, 19, is a sophomore at University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and joined the Amazin' Blue group there after graduating from Northville High School where she also sang with an a cappella group.

More than 160 leading college a cappella groups from around the world applied for the competition, and Sripada is a member of one of only 32 U.S. groups selected.

All teams have been seeded into a 32-team bracket by region (modeled after NCAA's March Madness).

"It's going well," Sripada said. "We just finished round one where we defended but I haven't looked at the results yet." Her group was selected as the number four seed for the Midwest region, a pretty high rating.

Winning teams receive $10,000+ in cash prizes and donations to the social justice charities of their choice.

Whether Amazin' Blue continues on in the competition depends on internet fan voting which will determine how far each group goes in the competition. Voting, according to officials is now open to help make Sripada's team a champion.

To vote, go to the UpStaged website where the bracket lineup and a link to click to watch each video is available and vote for a favorite team. Users will be able to click on any school to watch a four-minute a cappella video and then compare that performance against the first round match and vote.

More information is available at UpstagedU.com.

Medha Sripada

THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE
PRESENTS
Ask the Treasurer
Wednesday
October 21, 2020
6:00 PM
Eric R. Sabree
Wayne County Treasurer
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